



"The Lutheran Church on the March"

By VICTOR JONASSON

The recent convention of the United Lutheran Church in America might well have adopted the above caption as the motto for the 15th biennial of the Church. This great convention was held in the city of Cleveland, from the 5th to the 12th of October, and was attended by 600 delegates representing 33 Synods which comprise the United Lutheran Church in America.

The sessions commenced promptly at 8.45 a.m. each day with impressive devotional services. The morning session adjourning at 12 noon. The meetings were then resumed at 2 p.m. with a supper recess of 2½ hours, the evening meeting closing at 10 p.m.

While this daily schedule may seem somewhat heavy it must be pointed out that the Church convenes only once in two years and a tremendous backlog of old and new business accumulates with which the convention must deal. In order to enlarge upon this aspect of the biennium it might be mentioned that approximately 1,000 Lutheran congregations are affected directly by the decisions reached and the policies formulated by the convention.

These congregations are formed into 33 Synods as previously mentioned and reach from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from Canada to the southernmost boundaries of our great neighbor republic.

A day by day account of the business sessions would be rather tedious and uninteresting. This brief article is therefore an effort to bring to you the highlights and important events of the convention which we as Christians and members of the Church are interested in.

To attend a convention of this nature is an unforgettable experience which leaves a deep and lasting impression on the mind and broadens the religious horizon of the individual. I

am sure my fellow delegates Revs. Marteinson and Guttormson and our venerable and distinguished layman Mr. G. B. Bjornson share this opinion with the writer.

A deep and profound atmosphere of reverence not only characterized the religious devotions but was evident in the deliberations and discussions of the several sessions. Certain issues were debated with vigor and enthusiasm. The final decisions however, demonstrated the fact that here were gathered an earnest consecrated group of men whose sole interest was to advance the work of the Church to new and broader fields of Christian endeavor and to hasten the day when "the brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God" would no longer be a platitude but a living reality in the hearts and minds of men.

In order to convey the atmosphere which pervaded the convention, may I cite an incident which demonstrated the deep spirit of reverence which characterized the entire convention during its sessions.

In the normal courses of events matters of a controversial nature crop up from time to time. On this particular occasion a keen and spirited debate held sway for a matter of two hours or more. Motions, amendments and substitute motions were being offered from the floor making it very difficult for the chairman to preside. When the debate was at its height a lay delegate rose to request the chairman and president of the U.L.C.A., Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, to lead the convention in prayer. The request was granted. Dr. Fry asked God's guidance that the convention might reach a decision which would be in accordance with His will. The voices, which a moment ago had been raised in debate, now were stilled and the vast assembly stood with bowed heads in reverence

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while a prayer for wisdom and guidance was offered. A significant and important change at once became evident, and the matter under discussion was disposed of in the course of a few minutes by a unanimous vote. In thinking over the events of the day, the thought occurred to me that we, the people of Icelandic origin, could have solved many controversial issues which have caused dissension and bitterness by the simple expedient of asking God's guidance in the solution of our problems.

Those who believe that the Christian Faith is the only basis upon which a new and better world can be built cannot afford to be indifferent to the challenge which faces the western world today. Europe, still suffering and bleeding from the ravages of war, looks to the western hemisphere for help in this, their great day of need. Lutheran World Action is the great agency set up to provide spiritual and material services to our Lutheran brethren in devastated Europe. Dr. Fry, in an address delivered on Sunday, October 4th, prefaced his remarks by saying that a spiritual midnight existed in the world today and that we of the Lutheran faith should march forward to meet the dawn of a better day. The Christian Church he asserted, must extend its arms and gather into its folds suffering humanity. Space does not permit me to enlarge upon Dr. Fry's inspiring and challenging sermon, other than to say that the United Lutheran Church as a participating body in Lutheran World Action has accepted the challenge and is prepared to carry on this work with ever increasing vigor.

Collecting clothing, food, medicines, social and spiritual guidance and the rebuilding of shattered war-torn lives, is the work of Lutheran World Action.

Foreign mission work is a sphere of Christian endeavor which unfortunately is not thoroughly understood nor fully appreciated by the average church member. We read of self-sacrificing young men and women who voluntarily offer their services for the foreign mission fields, and find it difficult to understand why these people are willing to go to the far corners of the earth there to spend their lives enduring hardships, disappointment and poverty when hundreds of opportunities exist here at home in our America for successful remunerative careers.

The above thoughts occurred to me as I sat

in the splendid convention hall of the Cleveland Civic Auditorium and heard the chairman of the Board of Foreign Missions, Dr. Wentz, call to the platform and introduce 40 missionaries. Many of that number had spent the better part of a lifetime in missionary work in foreign lands. Others had just completed their courses and were about to leave for their designated mission fields.

The fervor and earnest enthusiasm which characterized their several speeches furnished the answer as to why they had chosen this work as a lifetime career. Here were missionaries from Japan, China, India, Liberia and South America, telling of the urgency which existed in these lands for hospitals, schools and above all, the Gospel, which sets men free from the darkness of paganism, superstition and fear.

Following the evening session it was my pleasure to spend an intensely interesting hour with two missionaries on furlough from India. They told of the squalor, ignorance and misery which existed in that land. Of the many religious sects which enslaved India's teeming millions into a bondage of degradation and despair. India is now entering upon a new and significant era in her history. Her future as a nation can be greatly strengthened by giving to her missionaries in ever increasing numbers, that the influence of the Christian Church may become a powerful voice in the councils of the nation.

The United Lutheran Church in America has to its credit a remarkable missionary record in India. It will be of interest to mention that the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Synod of India now boasts of a membership of 100,000 persons. This remarkable achievement is representative of the success which has been achieved by the Lutheran Church in other mission fields.

One does not think of the United States and Canada as a field of missionary endeavor and yet the Board of American Missions is one of the major departments of the Church. A study of the statistical material reveals that the Church has spent, and is spending, hundreds of thousands of dollars each year towards building a strong, living church in our land.

The impression which I have endeavored to convey in this sketchy, inadequate picture of the Cleveland convention, is that of a great and powerful Church which sees her mission in the clear light of the Gospel and eagerly accepts the challenge to serve mankind.

The Church marches onward towards the dawn, holding high the Cross of Christ; fervent in the hope that mankind may at long last lift its eyes to the Prince of Peace.

LUTHERAN CHURCHES IN CENTRAL JAPAN HIROSHIMA TO KYOTO

By S. O. Thorlaksson

What is left of our work in Japan? How this question burns in the hearts of those who have given the best years of their lives in the Service of the Church over there!

We know we have Japanese pastors and their homes true and faithful to their calling in Christ Jesus. Of those we left in charge in Central Japan only Revs. Okuma and Kishi of Kobe and Kyoto respectively, were able to remain at their posts throughout the war even though they were continually under suspicion and often tortured by their own police and military during that awful nightmare of war.

Rev. Koizumi of Osaka died under the strain of his daily ministrations to his starving and homeless members. But we have the encouraging news that his young successor has bravely carried on in the footsteps of this faithful and zealous pastor of souls.

Rev. Watanabe of Hiroshima was commandeered by the military into war services as an interpreter, stationed at Hongkong as a Liaison between the Canadian POW's and the Occupation Army of Japanese. We have learned that he ministered at the risk of his own life to needy and suffering Canadians, bringing them cheer and comfort as a true Minister of his Christ to fellow Christians. His name was placed at the top of the enemy list of those who merited leniency and special consideration when the British troops retrieved Hongkong. But the great tragedy and sacrifice he suffered was that his wife and children perished at Hiroshima.

There are so many details in connection with the question asked above that one would like answered. Most of these details, of course, concern individual Christians we have known for many years throughout this area. But though many of them may have perished, or become scattered and homeless, we are confident that our Japanese pastors are well qualified by their training and testing to give unto their own people inspired leadership as well as the true ministry of comfort and hope so sorely needed in these trying days.

Then, too, we must remember that the spiritual uprooting and torture that these people have undergone during the war years are more difficult of solution than are the physical needs and privations. May it never be said of us that we have offered them "the fleshpots of Egypt"

in return for an American denominational set-up in post-war Japan at the sacrifice of "the Miracle of Modern Missions" wrought in Japan and consummated in 1941. We are hoping that the Church Leaders in Japan will be given the next five years, at least the Duration of our military occupation, to find themselves before any undue American denominational pressure is brought to bear on the situation.

You will also be interested to know that our Lutheran Church buildings of Central Japan survived the ravages of bombs and fire. They are still standing as places of refuge and as citadels of the Way of Life. Out of 37 church buildings of all denominations in the city of Kobe (one million population before the war), only 4 remain standing—1 Methodist, 1 Congregational and 2 Lutheran. The Osaka Lutheran church building too, was spared, although surrounded by ruin and rubble. The church building at Kyoto, which was being built when we left Japan in 1941, was completed under the supervision of Rev. Kishi and has served the community as a beacon set on a hill to give light to the weary and war-torn members of this church as well as to many an American GI since VJ-Day.

What is left of our work in Japan? Yes, we can confidently answer this question even though it should never be our lot to return to see with our own eyes what is left. We know that enough remains of His Work wrought through His servants and your Ambassadors to carry His Church on to Victory. No matter what the ecclesiastical format may be, the Word has been planted and He will give the increase.

It remains for us to pray and give, not as of yore on behalf of "Foreign Missions to benighted Heathens", but on behalf of fellow Christians Abroad that His Kingdom may come on earth as it is in Heaven.

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM VANCOUVER, B.C.

On the evening of November 1st, the Luther League members gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. Sigurdson, 3367 Church St., for a gay Hallowe'en party. The president, Herb Sigurdson, conducted a short business meeting before the festivities of the evening began. Games and contests prompted by the spirit of the evening were enjoyed, and a splendid lunch served by the hostess added to the pleasure.

A second meeting of the league was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Polson, 36

Nanaimo St., November 15th. The object of the meeting was to organize a glee club to assist the Sunday School with the Christmas service, and for other occasions. The officers for this new unit within the Luther League are: Chairman, Miss Hazel Sigurdson; Membership Committee, Miss Margaret Sigmar and Miss Sylvia Erickson. The League is fortunate in procuring the services of Mr. Stefan Solvason as director of rehearsals.

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For the first Sunday of the month, the church service was conducted by a guest preacher, Rev. T. A. Hartig, of the Redeemer Lutheran Church, in the absence of our pastor. The Rev. Dr. Sigmar and Mrs. Sigmar were in Seattle, and while there enjoyed meeting, for the first time, their new grandson, Wallace Harald Sigmar, born to the Rev. H. S. and Mrs. Sigmar, on October 10th, 1946.

For the remainder of the month, regular services were conducted by Dr. H. Sigmar, alternating in the two languages, as is the custom.

The choir has assisted with each of the services, offering suitable anthems each evening. At the Remembrance Day service, observed in the English language, November 17th, honor was paid to the men and women in the armed services. Miss Margaret Sigmar was the soloist for the musical number.

Several new members have joined the choir, the most recent being Mrs. Olive Irvine and Mrs. G. Raglan. A loss will be felt in the departure of Miss Emily Bardal to her new position in Seattle, but the good wishes of members of the choir will follow her, for she has so often in the past contributed to the choir's efforts with her musical talent.

* * *

A wedding of widespread interest took place in the Danish Lutheran Church, the evening of October 26th, when Kathleen Pearl, twin daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Sigurdson exchanged marriage vows with Mr. Robert Kenneth Gordon, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Gordon of Vancouver. Mr. Lloyd Bjerkin was best man, and the Rev. Dr. Sigmar was the officiating clergyman.

Clusters of fall flowers, soft white ribbon bows and the quiet glow of candlelight provided a pretty setting for the lovely bride and her attendants.

The bride was dressed in a long gown of ivory satin with peplum and bustle effect. A coronet of pearls held her dainty veil in place and her bouquet was of red roses and white chrysanthemums.

As she walked down the aisle of the church on the arm of her father, she was preceded by an attractive bridal party. Her twin sister, Hazel Merle Sigurdson wore a Victorian gown of blue taffeta, with finger tip veil, carrying pink and white carnations, while Mrs. Norman Boyce, as matron-of-honor, wore pink taffeta with matching veil and flowers. The reception following the ceremony was held at the home of the bride's parents.

For the wedding trip to Vancouver Island and the United States, the bride chose a dress-maker suit of blue with matching coat, and navy accessories. The happy young couple will make their home in Vancouver.

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Visitors from out of town at our church services recently noticed were Mr. A. T. Stephenson, from Selkirk, Man., who has been a guest of his sister, Mrs. C. T. Ingham; and Mrs. Inga Storm, of Glenboro, Man., who is in the city on a holiday, visiting Mrs. Carrie Helgason, Mrs. Erik Hall and other friends on the west coast.

* * *

We are pleased to welcome to the Icelandic community of Vancouver, Mrs. Bjorn Hjalmarson, of Regina, Sask. At present Mrs. Hjalmarson is living in the home of her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Lee.

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Mr. L. H. Thorlaksson, vice-consul for Iceland, recently spent a week in Seattle, visiting his mother, Mrs. N. S. Thorlaksson, and other relatives.

Our popular deacon, Mr. Gunnar Gudmundson returned recently from an extended trip to Winnipeg and other eastern points.

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November was the month of annual meetings owing to the fact that a new arrangement has been made to close the church year so as to conform with that of the parent church body, the U.L.C.A. Therefore the period just ending was of ten months' duration instead of the usual twelve-month period.

* * *

The Women's Association gathered at the home of Mrs. G. Grimson, 241 West 21st St., for the annual election of officers. The new slate consists of: President, Mrs. Ivan Hambly; Vice-President, Mrs. John Sigurdson; Secretary, Mrs. P. B. Guttormsson; Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Ludvig Edickson; Treasurer, Hiss Helga Johnson; Assistant Treasurer, Mrs. G. A. Einarson.

The meeting was devoted almost entirely to the discussion of plans for the fall bazaar. A

new member, Mrs. Lily Lau, joined at this meeting.

One of the worthy projects of the W.A. is an effort to raise money for an organ fund. During the past months a committee of five: Mrs. G. Grimson, Mrs. Herman LeLand, Mrs. G. A. Einarson, Mrs. Jonina Johnstone and Mrs. Norman Ogg, have met regularly for the purpose of sewing on the satin bedspread. This beautiful rose satin bedspread is quilted in white and green calla lily design with blocks reserved for the embroidering of names. With each money gift towards the organ fund the donor's name is inscribed on the quilt. Each stitch is made with painstaking care, and the whole, when completed, will be most attractive, and will be a unique census of much of the Icelandic population of Vancouver and districts adjacent.

The committee is anxious to obtain many more names, and the public is invited to send names, with donation to the organ fund, to any member of the committee.

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The annual congregational meeting was held in the lower hall of the Danish Church, Thursday evening, November 14th. The meeting was opened by a prayer by the pastor. The secretary, Dr. B. T. H. Marteinsson, read the annual minutes, and the president, Mr. G. F. Gislason, in an excellent presidential report, reviewed the work of the past ten months. Dr. Sigmar reported much accomplished in his pastoral work. He also gave an account of progress in Sunday School and choir activities. Treasurer's report was given by Mr. B. Thorlacius.

Mrs. Ivan Hambly explained the efforts of the W.A., while Herb Sigurdson reviewed the growth and success of the Luther League. Much encouragement could be taken from the splendid records shown in each branch of the new church organization.

A new procedure is being followed in electing the church council this year, three of those elected would serve for one year, while four would be in office for a two-year term.

The following were returned to office: Mr. B. Kolbeins, Mr. H. M. Sumarlidason, Mr. B. Thorlacius, and Mr. L. H. Thorlaksson. Newly elected were: Mr. Norman Ogg, Mr. Herb Sigurdson, and Mr. S. Solvason.

Deacons are as follows: Mr. Gunnar Gudmundson, Mrs. Wm. Mooney, Mr. Carl Finnbogason, Mrs. Clara Sigurdson and Miss Rose Thorne.

The retiring officers were tendered a sincere vote of thanks for their energetic services during the closing year. Mr. F. O. Lyngdal spoke a few words in Icelandic, praising the

spirit evident in the church meetings and expressing surprise at the number of activities undertaken by so young a church organization. He asked support and interest for the "Sameiningin", the Icelandic monthly magazine of the Lutheran Synod, which enjoys the distinction of being the oldest publication in Icelandic in America, being now in its sixtieth year.

We are pleased to report that though Mr. Einar Haralds retires as a member of the deacons' board, he has consented to continue with the work in the Sunday School, which has already shown results of his kind interest.

The retiring president and secretary, Messrs. Gislason and Marteinsson then invited the entire meeting to partake of coffee and doughnuts provided by them and served by the ladies under direction of Mrs. Mooney.

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We regret to report the passing of one of our charter members, Mr. I. G. Skordal, of 1555 Gravely St., on Sunday, October 20th, 1946. The late Mr. Skordal had been ill for several months prior to his death. The funeral took place on Wednesday, October 23rd, from the C. Frank Edwards Funeral Home, with Rev. Dr. Sigmar conducting the service, and members of the W.A. attending in a body. The sympathy of the entire congregation is extended to the wife and family.

The death occurred recently of one of Vancouver's pioneers, in the person of Mrs. Helga Gudmundson, who died at the home of her granddaughter, Mrs. Cross, on Kitchener St., in her eighty-seventh year. The funeral was held at the Roselawn Funeral Home with Rev. Dr. Sigmar officiating, on Tuesday, November 19th, 1946.

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Congratulations are being extended to members of 'Solskin', oldest Icelandic organization in Vancouver, for the successful party held in the Swedish Hall on Wednesday evening, November 13th, when funds were raised for the proposed Old Folks' Home in Vancouver. Seldom has a party of this kind been staged more efficiently, and credit is due to the good organizing of the president, Mrs. Carl Frederickson, Mrs. A. Orr, and the rest of the Ladies' Aid. Mrs. Frederickson acted as chairman for the entertainment, which consisted of piano numbers by Mrs. Dorothy Limpus, A.T.C.M.; vocal solos by Mrs. Thora Thorsteinsson Smith, L.R. S.M.; violin selections by Miss Sheila Dempster, accompanied by Miss Phyllis Goodmund; a reading by Hal Arngrimson, and an excellent address by the president of the Old Folks' Home committee, Mr. G. F. Gislason.

An auction sale proved to be interesting and

profitable. It was conducted by Mr. S. Eymundson and by means of various other ventures, a splendid sum was collected for the fund.

Coffee was served from a beautifully decorated table. Presiding over the coffee urns were Mesdames B. T. H. Marteinsson, L. H. Thorlaksson, I. Hambly, H. Sigmar, J. Sigurdson, J. Christophersson, H. M. Sumarlidason, and several young ladies assisted with the serving of refreshments.

It is by the good will of such organizations and the loyal response of the people of the community that a rest home for our older men and women will become a reality, and thanks are given to all who made the evening so successful.

LILLIAN T. SUMARLIDASON.

THE FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, WINNIPEG

The 68th annual meeting of the First Lutheran Church, Winnipeg, was held in the Church auditorium, Monday evening, November 25th. All reports indicated a healthy state of affairs in the congregation. The following were elected to the respective boards:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

For a two-year term:

Mr. Arni Arnason, Mr. Lincoln G. Johnson, Mr. E. F. Stephenson, Mr. O. V. Olafsson, Mr. N. O. Bardal, and Mr. Norman Bergman, for one year.

Those remaining on the Board for another year:

Mr. Albert Wathne, Mr. S. L. Bowley, Mr. G. P. Goodman, Mr. Walter Allison.

BOARD OF DEACONS

For a two-year term:

Mrs. H. G. Henrikson, Mrs. F. Thordarson, Miss Rannveig Bardal, Mr. Edward Eggertson, Mr. H. Hannesson.

Those remaining on the Board for another year:

Mr. A. G. Eggertson, K.C., Mrs. G. K. Stephenson, Mrs. C. Olafson, Mrs. G. Magnusson, Mr. Fred Bjarnason.

AUDITORS

Mr. F. Thordarson, Mr. O. B. Olsen.

THE SENIOR LADIES' AID REPORT

At the annual meeting of the Senior Ladies' Aid, held in the church parlors, Thursday, November 21st, the following officers were elected for the coming year: Honorary President, Mrs. V. J. Eylands; President, Mrs. B. B. Jonsson; Vice-President, Mrs. O. Stephensen;

Secretary, Mrs. Albert Wathne; Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Sigurjon Sigurdson; Treasurer, Mrs. M. W. Dalman; Assistant Treasurer, Mrs. M. Paulson; Advisory Committee, Mrs. Finnur Johnson, Mrs. Fred Stephenson, Mrs. B. J. Brandson; General Convener, Mrs. A. S. Bardal.

Mesdames Frank Dalman, J. K. Johnson, Gunnlaugur Johannson, H. Thorolfson and B. J. Brandson were elected to be in charge of their respective circles.

FINANCIAL REPORT

RECEIPTS:

Balance on hand Nov. 27,	
1945	\$ 308.63
Teas and Concerts	600.62
Cook Book Sales	220.00
Spring and Fall Bazaars	1,752.60
Gifts of 60th Anniversary	163.00
Fees	50.00

DISBURSEMENTS:

To First Lutheran Church	\$2,000.00
Bethel Old Folks' Home	141.79
Shriners' Hospital	10.00
Organ Fund, Vancouver	25.00
Sunrise Camp	136.89
Lutheran World Action	100.00
Gifts and Flowers	212.11
Sundries	55.23

\$2,681.02

Balance on hand

413.83

\$3,094.85 \$3,094.85

THE JUNIOR LADIES' AID REPORT

The annual meeting of the J.L.A. was held in the church parlors Tuesday, November 5th. The following officers were elected for the coming year: Honorary President, Mrs. B. B. Jonsson; President, Mrs. V. J. Eylands; Vice-President, Mrs. G. F. Jonasson; Secretary, Mrs. T. Blondal; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. J. Eager; Treasurer, Mrs. B. C. McAlpine; Assistant Treasurer, Mrs. T. Stone; Publicity, Mrs. E. Stephenson; Nominating Committee, Mrs. F. Thordarson, Mrs. O. B. Olson and Mrs. W. H. Olson.

FINANCIAL REPORT

RECEIPTS:

Balance on hand Nov. 6,	
1945	\$ 20.84
Cash on hand Nov. 6, 194582
Received from Teas, Sales	
etc.	1,875.47
Received from Cook Book	220.00

Received from Fees	50.00	
Book Interest54	
DISBURSEMENTS:		
To First Lutheran Church	\$1,350.00	
To Red Cross	50.00	
To Good Samaritan Fund	10.00	
To Board of Deacons	25.00	
To Organ Fund, Vancouver	25.00	
To Lutheran World Action	50.00	
To Camp Fund	112.11	
To Gifts and Cards	39.10	
Miscellaneous	468.34	
	\$2,129.55	
Balance in Bank	15.63	
Cash on hand	22.49	
	\$2,167.67	\$2,167.67

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

By GRETIR LEO JOHANNSON

At the last annual meeting of the congregation some members voiced the desirability of a bilingual report from the Secretary covering the activities of the Board of Trustees for the year, and this report is therefore submitted to satisfy this demand.

At the first meeting of the Board after the annual meeting officers were elected and duties allocated. Mr. G. F. Jonasson was re-elected president for the eighth time, but he has been a member of the Board for eighteen consecutive years during which time he has given good stewardship in guiding the affairs of the church. Mr. Jonasson is entitled to much praise for his untiring efforts and the substantial support he has at all times rendered to the congregation.

Dr. A. Blondal, a member of the board for many years, was re-elected vice-president, but owing to a breakdown in his health early this year he has been unable to carry on his valuable assistance to the board, and has recently submitted his resignation from the board. The board has missed him in its deliberations, but rejoices with him and his family that he is regaining his health, and hopes that he will be restored to full health ere long.

Your secretary was absent for a number of months during the year and was unable to contribute his full share. He has been your secretary for the past eight years, and has served notice that he will not be available for re-election at this time. He considers it proper that members of the congregation should rotate on the boards so that as many as possible be

given an opportunity to serve their congregation and the business of the church be known to as many as possible. He leaves the board of trustees with a sense of satisfaction in his heart, and thankfulness to his colleagues for pleasant association and the opportunity it has afforded him in developing an understanding of Christian endeavour.

One of the most onerous offices on the board is that of treasurer. The First Lutheran Church has been most fortunate in having capable and energetic men on its roll to fill such a position. Mr. Olsen has been treasurer for the past six years, six years that have been filled with activity as far as the financial aspect of the congregation is concerned, and he has discharged his duties with diligence and acumen. His report will bear witness to the praiseworthy financial position of the congregation, and the board is grateful to all that have made this financial position possible. From time to time your board has requested from the membership that contributions to the church be spread over the year by at least monthly contributions, and that the contributions to the church be not deferred to near the end of the financial year. A great deal of needless inconvenience is caused the treasurer and the board in having to make special individual appeals for contributions near the end of each financial year so as to be able to balance the budget, this can be overcome if members keep up systematic contributions during the year.

The office of Envelope Secretary entails a great deal of bookkeeping, as each contribution of envelope users is recorded to the credit of the respective contributor and a receipt issued to those that request it at the end of each year. Mr. Walter Allison has been the envelope secretary for the past year and has discharged his duties with diligence. The board recommends the use of envelopes and any one wishing to become an envelope contributor, please contact Mr. Allison or any member of the board.

The Property Committee is composed of three members, they being this past year, Messrs. J. S. Gillies, Albert Wathne and Arni Arnason. This committee has seen to all necessary repairs and renovations to the property of the congregation, which includes the church and the house at 776 Victor St. The committee's work during the year testifies to forethought and application.

In January of this year, our much thought of Miss Snjolaug Sigurdson requested a leave of absence from her duties as organist and choir leader. The board granted her this request and obtained the services, for the time being, of Mrs. Eric Isfeld, who at all times has

been most generous in helping out the board in times of difficulty. The Choir Warden, Mr. G. P. Goodinan, to whose lot such matters fall for attention, and the board as a whole, was exceptionally fortunate in obtaining the services of the present organist and choir leader, under the following conditions: That Mr. Lupton be engaged as organist and choir leader from September 1st, 1946, at a salary of \$750.00 per year for the first two years, and \$900.00 per year for the succeeding two years. It was further agreed that the contract should include the following conditions, that Mr. Lupton be hired for four years, both parties having the privilege to terminate the contract on three months' notice. The congregation is by this contract assured of a stable situation in this connection for some time to come. The board appreciates very much the helpful assistance of Mrs. Isfeld this past year as hitherto, and at the same time extends to Miss Sigurdson its best wishes for a successful future. We are all proud of our choirs and grateful for the diligence of the members in making the services beautiful. Special thanks are due Mrs. Pearl Johnson for her contribution in music to the congregation.

The tenth member of the board is Mr. S. L. Bowley, who has given of his time and effort to the welfare of the church.

Brotherly spirit and co-operation has reigned in all the activities of the board, and I venture to say that each member of the board has derived a great deal of satisfaction in working for the welfare of the church.

The board wishes to voice its appreciation of the services of the sexton of the church, Mr. Gunnar Gunnlaugsson.

Whereas the various departments and societies within the congregation will be submitting reports as to their respective activities no mention will be made of them in this report. The board, however, appreciates the labor and the support that these organizations have contributed to the welfare of the church. We are all pleased that the Men's Club has again become active and wish it every success in its endeavours.

Special mention needs be made of our pastor, Rev. Mr. V. J. Eylands, in appreciation of his loyalty and untiring efforts for the benefit of us all. His duties are many and he discharges them with efficiency and love. We respectfully submit to the incoming boards, the Trustees as well as the Deacons, that consideration be given how best to alleviate or at least to lessen some of the work that Mr. Eylands is ladened with.

Last January, the Board, in co-operation with the Soldiers' Committee, sponsored a "welcome home evening" for our women and men who served in the armed forces of our country. The evening was an enjoyable one. Since that time a number, if not all, of such people have returned home, and the board has asked the committee that was in charge before to plan a reception for them, and details are being worked out at the present time.

We are now entering the sixty-ninth year of the existence of the First Lutheran Church. The affairs of the church have never been in a more favorable position, but, even though things are running along smoothly, there is still ample work to be done by those who have a longing to develop in Christian endeavour. God has blessed the First Lutheran Church these sixty-eight years and will continue to do so as long as we have a willingness to work with Him.

ARGYLE NEWS

By MARGARET ANDERSON

The Bru congregation held a Fowl Supper on October 10th, in Bru Hall. A supper up to the usual Bru standard was served to a large crowd. Rev. and Mrs. E. H. Fafnis and family were among those present.

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Mr. Sam O'Dell passed away on October 21. He leaves, to mourn his death, his wife, Kristjana.

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The Grund Ladies' Aid honored Mr. and Mrs. R. Moore (nee Grace Helgason, of Gimli), and Mr. and Mrs. O. Moore, at a party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Moore. After the presentation of gifts, lunch was served.

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Mr. and Mrs. B. S. Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Johnson of this district, returned last month after spending several weeks at the coast.

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Mrs. Kristjana Johannson passed away on September 4th, in Glenboro. She was buried in the Grund cemetery.

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Mrs. Elsabet Hallgrimson of Grund, passed away on October 22nd. She was buried in the Bru cemetery.

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The Glenboro Ladies' Aid, at the conclusion of one of their meetings, presented Mrs. Inga Storm and Mrs. Runa Thorsteinson with gifts, as they were both leaving the community.